



N Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
GREAT PLAINS MASTER BEEKEEPING

In-Person Great Plains Master Beekeeper Certification Program at GCGF

The University of Nebraska's Great Plains Master Beekeeping program is a regional education program that spans the Midwest. Our St. Peter's Apiary has been designated as Indiana's first state "Open Teaching Apiary". Our experienced Master Beekeeper will be offering an in-person 16-week program to bring educational opportunities to both new and experienced beekeepers.

The program includes training, education, outreach, and mentoring for beginning and advanced beekeepers that will improve colony survival and drive economic success. This program will focus on colony management, bee biology, pests, pathogens and other stressors, as well as land stewardship, business, marketing, and professional development. Great Plains Master Beekeepers will be both advanced in beekeeping knowledge as well as being competent advocates for bees.



Certified Master Beekeeper
2023 – University of Nebraska
Great Plains Master Beekeeping
&
Certified Master Beekeeper
2020 – University of Montana

Harvest House

Community Programs are part of the "Plant, Prepare and Preserve" Program

Resources provided by:

St Peter's Apiary Beekeepers
@ Growing Common Ground Farm



Growing Common Ground Farm
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
950 E Washington St
Lebanon, IN 46052
askharvesthouse@gmail.com

www.ChurchThatGrows.org

Beekeeper Certification Program



Adult Beekeeping Program

St. Peter's Apiary
Growing Common Ground Farm



Adult Beekeeper Program



Great Plains Master Beekeeping

Adult Program – Cost: \$5/session

Wed 6pm – 8:00pm

Jun 7th - Sep 20th

Curriculum

Apprentice Level (0-2 yrs experience)

Session 1 June 7th

- Intro to bee morphology/life cycle
- Caste system, age polytheism
- Role of Bees in Agroecosystem
- Local Apiary Law

Session 2 June 14th

- Honeybee Plants
- Safety and Stings
- Locations of apiaries
- Placement of hives

Session 3 June 21st

- Installing Package Bees
- Introduction to Honeybee Stressors
- Beekeeping Equipment
- Seasonal Hive Activities

Session 4 June 28th

- Overwintering Basics
- Honey Production, Extraction (small scale)
- Swarm management
- Varroa mite monitoring & management

Session 5 July 5th

- Role of Beekeepers in Food Production
- Colony health inspections
- Other insects in the apiary
- Beekeepers etiquette

Session 6 July 12th

- Apprentice Course Recap

Journeyman Level (2-5 yrs experience)

Session 7 July 19th

- Bee behavior: mating, swarming, etc.
- Bee Communication (Dance language, pheromones)
- Plant biology, landscape enhancements

Session 8 July 26th

- Pollination services
- Migratory colonies (Considerations/Laws)
- Growing your business

Session 10 August 2nd

- Developing formal contracts with growers for pollination
- Informal agreements with landowners for honey production
- Entering Competitions

Session 11 August 9th

- Value added products
- Marketing your products
- Selling at farmer's markets, fairs, commercial stores

Session 12 August 16th

- Colony health inspections
- Disease diagnostics & management
- Varroa Resistance Management

Session 13 August 23rd

- Mitigating impacts of pesticides on bees
- Catching swarms
- Spring Management: Reversals & Splits

Session 14 August 30th

- Queen selection and traits
- Installing queens (direct release) & marking queens
- Varroa monitoring & control

Session 15 September 6th

- Spring Management: Reversals & Splits
- Techniques for gloveless beekeeping
- How to be an effective communicator/mentor

Session 16 September 13th

- Journeyman Course Recap

Open Apiary - Demonstrations & Inspections

Open Apiary times are an informal, unstructured gathering of members of the Great Plains Master Beekeeping program. There will be brief demonstrations, questions and answers, and time to get hands-on experience with beehives. Open Apiary will count as 2 hours of field training toward your progress through the Great Plains Master Beekeeping program.

Saturdays 11am – 3pm

(Weather dependent: Sunny & above 55 degrees)

**Jun 24th Jul 1st Jul 15th
Aug 5th Aug 19th Sep 2nd Sep 16th**

Questionsemail:

askharvesthouse@gmail.com

Sign-up at www.ChurchThatGrows.org